CLAIMS

1. A method for prion decontamination of an entity comprising
(i) contacting said entity with a detergent,
(ii) contacting said entity with a protease, and optionally
(iii) autoclaving said entity.

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the protease is selected from a group consisting of protease and peptidase enzymes belonging to class E.C. 3.4.-.- as defined by the Nomenclature Committee of the International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

3. A method according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the protease is selected from the group consisting of ProteinaseK, papain, pronase, and bromelain.

4. A method according to claim 3 wherein the protease is pronase.

5. A method according to claim 3 wherein the protease is ProteinaseK.

6. A method for prion decontamination comprising
(i) contacting an entity to be decontaminated with a detergent,
(ii) contacting said entity with a first protease,
(iii) contacting said entity with a second protease, and optionally
(iv) autoclaving said entity.

7. A method according to claim 6 wherein the first and second proteases are selected from the group consisting of ProteinaseK, papain, pronase, and bromelain.

8. A method according to claim 7 wherein the first protease is pronase and the second protease is papain.

9. A method according to claim 7 wherein the first protease is ProteinaseK and the second protease is pronase.

10. A method according to claim 7 wherein the first protease is pronase and the second protease is ProteinaseK.

11. A method according to any preceding claim wherein the detergent is an ionic detergent.

12. A method according to claim 11 wherein the detergent is an anionic detergent.

13. A method according to claim 12 wherein the detergent is SDS.

14. A method according to any preceding claim wherein said entity comprises a surface.

15. A method according to claim 14 wherein said surface is a surface of a medical instrument.

16. A method according to claim 14 or claim 15 wherein said surface comprises metal.

17. A method according to claim 16 wherein said metal is steel.

18. A kit comprising detergent and a protease selected from the group consisting of ProteinaseK, papain, pronase, and bromelain.

19. A kit according to claim 18 comprising two or more said proteases.

20. A kit according to claim 18 or 19 wherein said detergent is SDS

21. A composition comprising an ionic detergent and one or more proteases selected from the group consisting of ProteinaseK, papain, pronase, and bromelain.

22. A composition according to claim 21 comprising two or more said proteases.

23. A composition according to claim 21 or 22 wherein said detergent is SDS.